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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

In re application of : **DECISION ON PETITION**
Arthur H. Bunn : **TO MAKE SPECIAL FOR**
Application No. 10/522,639 : **NEW APPLICATION**
Filed: January 26, 2005 : **UNDER 37 CFR 1.102**
For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING**
DISTRIBUTOR LOYALTY

This is a decision on the petition filed on December 28, 2006 to make the above-identified application special for accelerated examination procedure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102.

The petition to make the application special is **DENIED**.

REGULATION AND PRACTICE

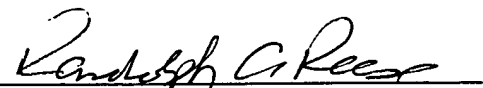
To be eligible for accelerated examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102 and pursuant to the "Changes to Practice for Petitions in Patent Applications to Make Special and for Accelerated Examination" published in the Federal Register on June 26, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 36323), the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. The application must be a non-reissue utility or design application filed under 37 CFR 1.111(a);
2. The application, the petition and the required fees must be filed electronically using the USPTO's electronic filing system (EFS), or EFS-web; if not filed electronically, a statement asserting that EFS and EFS-web were not available during the normal business hours;
3. The application, at the time of filing, must be complete under 37 CFR 1.51 and in condition for examination;
4. The application must contain three or fewer independent claims and twenty or fewer total claims and the claims must be directed to a single invention.

The petition to make special filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c) is not acceptable because it was not filed with the application as required in the above Federal Register Notice of June 26, 2006. It appears that the petition was filed under the guidelines for making an application special that were in effect prior to August 25, 2006. As of August 25, 2006 the new guidelines replaced the old guidelines. Since applicant's petition was received on December 28, 2006 the petition must be considered under the new guidelines and thus is properly **DENIED**.

For the above-stated reason, the petition is denied. Therefore, the application will be examined in its regular turn.

Any inquiry regarding this decision should be directed to Randolph A. Reese, Special Program Examiner, at (571) 272-6619.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Randolph A. Reese", is written over a horizontal line.

Randolph A. Reese
Special Programs Examiner
Technology Center 3600